

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A method for treating an individual suffering from or having a tendency to develop a food allergy comprising administering to said individual a therapeutically effective amount of a modified food allergen, wherein the food allergen is modified by reduction and alkylation.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the food allergen is an allergenic food protein.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the food allergen is a ~~seed~~ plant storage protein.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3, wherein the plant storage protein is a 2S albumin, lipid transfer protein (LTP), or conglutin.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the plant storage protein is a tree nut or ~~seed~~ a 2S albumin.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the plant storage protein is brazil nut 2S albumin.

7. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the food allergen is modified by said~~ reduction ~~using~~ uses a reducing agent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of 2-mercaptoethanol, dithiothreitol, dithioerythritol, and tributylphosphine, and a combination thereof.

8. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the food allergen is modified by said~~ alkylation ~~using~~ uses an alkylating agent ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of N-ethylmalimide, cystamine, iodoacetamide, and iodoacetic acid and a combination[[s]] thereof.

9. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the modified food allergen is administered in the form of~~ said administering is in a dosage form chosen selected from the group consisting of a capsule, tablet, lozenge, dragee, pill, droplets, suppository, aerosol, powder, spray, vaccine, ointment, paste, cream, inhalant, ~~or~~ and patch.

10. (original) A method according to claim 9, wherein the dosage form further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or an adjuvant.

11. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the modified food allergen~~ said administering is ~~administered~~ effected orally, intraperitoneally, subcutaneously, intravenously, intramuscularly, pulmonarily, or via mucosa.

12. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein administering the modified food allergen induces production of Thelper-1 mediated subclasses of IgG antibodies.

13. (currently amended) A method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein administering the modified food allergen results in down regulating the production of IgE antibodies ~~is down-regulated~~.

14. (currently amended) A food allergen modified by reduction and alkylation ~~for use in a method according to any of the preceding claims~~.

15. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ~~an~~ the modified food allergen ~~modified by reduction and alkylation for use in a method according to any of the claims 1-13~~ of claim 14.

16. (cancelled)